GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2634
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
NATIONAL SEA WATERWAYS
Chavda Shri Harisinh Pratapsinh;Thummar Shri Virjibhai

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up National Sea-Waterways;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government therefrom?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Declaration of port channels as National Sea Waterways in a phased manner beginning with major ports and their development and maintenance through Central Government funding is envisaged in the draft Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport).

(c) The aim behind National Sea Waterways is to ensure development and maintenance of port channels in a coordinated manner to keep pace with the demands for deeper draught generated on account of increasing vessel sizes. Such coordinated development is expected to attract mainline vessels to Indian ports in general and obviate, in particular, the need for transshipment of Indian origin/bound container cargo in foreign ports thus reducing transaction costs for Indian trade.